

REMARKS

Status

Claims 1-10, 13-18 and 21-24 are pending. Claims 1-10 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 11-12 and 19-20 have been canceled in the above amendment. Claims 13-18 have been amended. New claims 21-24 have been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response to the rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 19 and 20.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13, 14, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, the Examiner objected to “a flag indicating whether use is eliminated of every image previously stored in the image storage means” appearing in claims 13, 17 and 19 as being vague and indefinite as to exactly what the flag indicates. Claim 14 is objected to because it depends from claim 13.

In the above amendment, Applicants have extensively amended these claims and believe that the problem has been obviated.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The rejection of claims 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Wiegand :Text of Final Committee Draft of Joint Video Specification” is respectfully traversed.

Wiegand states that “the reference picture buffer consists of two independent parts: a short buffer and a long term buffer.” (See 8.3.6.5). In other words, the short and long term buffers store reference pictures only.

Turning to 8.3.6.7.1, Wiegand states that “the “Adaptive Memory Control” buffering mode allows specified pictures to be removed from either or both of the short and long

term buffers.” The Adaptive Memory Control deals only with the short and long term buffers. Thus, the “specific pictures to be removed” should be reference pictures.

Also in 8.3.6.7.6, Wiegand states that “if memory_management_control_operation equals 5 (Reset), or the current picture is an IDR picture, all pictures in the short and long term buffers are marked as “unused”,...” Again, this Section deals only with the short and long term buffers. Therefore, “all pictures” referred to therein necessarily include reference pictures only and include nothing else.

Claim 13 as amended above recites the limitation of “an image storage for storing...a reference frame for use in subsequent encoding and an output queuing frame whose output time for display is yet to come”. In claim 13, the image storage stores two types of frames: a reference frame; and an output queuing frame. Paragraph 15 of the specification defines the term “output queuing frame”. Please note, however, that Wiegand discloses buffers which store only one type of pictures, i.e., reference pictures, and is silent about the image storage recited in claim 13, which stores the two types of frames.

Also, in claim 13, “the buffer manager outputs...a flag indicating whether to delete the reference frame stored or both the reference frame and the output queuing frame previously stored in the image storage means.” In Wiegand, pictures which are removed include reference pictures only. There is nothing in Wiegand which discloses or teaches the flag recited in claim 13 which is used to indicate whether to delete the reference frames or both the reference frame and the output queuing frame.

For the reasons stated above, Wiegand cannot anticipate claim 13. Since claim 13 cannot be anticipated, its dependent claim, claim 14, cannot be anticipated, either. Nor can Wiegand anticipate claim 17 because claim 17 recites limitations similar to those recited in claim 13.

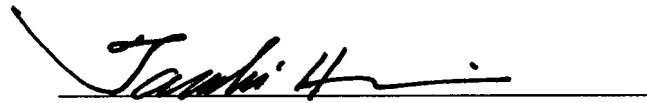
The same reasoning extends to disqualify Wiegand from being used to reject claims 15, 16, 18 and 21-24. Claims 15, 18, 21 and 23 all recite a buffer in which two types of pictures are storable and an operation of deleting these two types of pictures from the buffer.

Applicants also submit that claims 25 and 26 should be allowable over Wiegand. Wiegand is silent about “a flag generator configured to determine, if an IDR picture is

identified, whether to empty a decoded picture buffer of a decoder or only delete any reference picture stored in the decoded picture butter, leaving any other picture stored therein, and generate a flag having a value indicative of a determined result.”

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 27, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tadashi Horie", is written over a horizontal line.

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